

**UNOFFICIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (HCDC)

Meeting – October 22, 2008

Fresno City Hall, Conference Room 2165N (Rm. 'A' – 2nd Floor)

2600 Fresno Street

Fresno, California 93721

A. CALL TO ORDER

Informative meeting started at 5:25 p.m.

Commissioners

Present: Daniel Payne, CHAIR
Rogenia Cox, VICE-CHAIR
Armando Rodriguez, Commissioner
Vacant, Commissioner

Absent: Wayne Jones, Commissioner
Jeffrey Harrington, Commissioner

Staff

Present: Claudia Cázares, Interim HCD Manager
Housing and Community Development
Kathy Cornell, Acting Recording Secretary

Absent: Keith Bergthold, Interim Director
Planning and Development Department

B. COMMUNICATIONS

None

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

D. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

None

E. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

HUD FUNDING UNDER THE NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Crystal Smith, Budget & Management Studies/CDBG, provided the report to the Commissioners. In response to the drastic increase in foreclosures and the impact of the sub prime lending environment on housing, Congress authorized the Neighborhood Stabilization Program under Title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. The new entitlement program is provided to currently funded grantees and states of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. As a direct recipient of other HUD community development entitlement programs the City of Fresno was awarded \$10.969 million of federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) provides targeted emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities. HUD's direction to entitlement grantees is to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes and to rehabilitate, resell, or redevelop these homes in order to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of house values of neighboring homes.

HUD considers administering this program an urgent matter. Specific requirements, activities and time lines have been established to ensure entitlement grantees use the funds in an expeditious manner. Specifically NSP funds: (1) must be obligated within 18 months; (2) used on specific activities; and (3) used to benefit specific target groups.

A colored map designating the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) eligible areas and bank owned properties were handed out to the commissioners. The HCDC will conduct the public hearing on the NSP Substantial Amendment on Wednesday, November 12, 2008. The public hearing will be conducted at Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno Street, Second Floor, City Council Chambers. Commissioners had questions and discussion followed.

F. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

None

G. UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

H. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting: **November 12, 2008.**

This Informative Unofficial Meeting ended at 6:00 p.m.